

# The Learning Curve

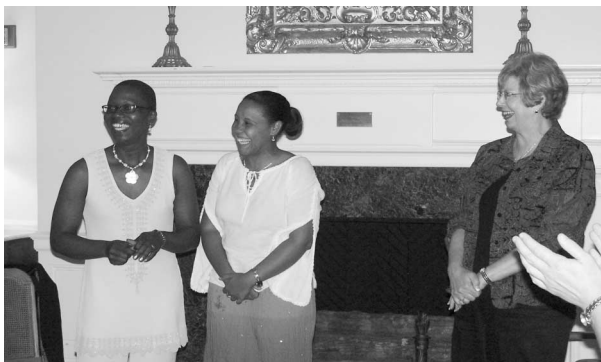
This page was written and designed by Education First in cooperation with the Bibb County Board of Education, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and The Telegraph.



Your weekly guide to students, schools, teachers and triumphs in Bibb County's Public Schools

## Community Welcomes International Teachers

"As educators, this is very much a year of learning for all of us as we embark upon the introduction of global education to our schools and community," Bibb County School District Superintendent Sharon Patterson says of the recent partnership with Visiting International Faculty Program.



(l-r) Sheril Smith, Tracy Sadler, and Superintendent Sharon Patterson thank the community for its support. Smith and Sadler are both from Jamaica.

VIF carefully selects the world's finest teachers, matches them with U.S. schools and provides comprehensive support to help ensure rewarding experiences. VIF educators – who meet the "highly qualified" standard of the federal No Child Left Behind law – teach a wide range of core subjects, including elementary education, international languages, English as a Second Language, math, social studies, science, special education and many more.

As cultural ambassadors, VIF teachers educate students about the culture, history and heritage of their home nations to help prepare a new generation – and local communities – for success in an increasingly integrated world. VIF teachers come from more than 50 nations.

"As a school district, we must prepare

our students for this new, more global, era," says Patterson.

To help make these teachers feel welcomed into the Macon-Bibb County community, local groups and the schools in which they teach have hosted several events to thank them for their contribution to our students.

Education First, a local non-profit organization which has helped make

the VIF teachers transition as smooth as possible, hosted a reception at Wesleyan College where the teachers could meet their local host families. According to the VIF Program, Macon is unique in this effort. The host families will be available to these teachers to help them in any way possible, from finding places to shop to where to pay bills to good places to eat.

"I'm sure this is a reflection of the warm, southern hospitality that has made Macon and the entire region an international tourism destination," Patterson says, thanking each of them at the reception.

Bloomfield Middle and Bruce Elementary hosted their own Jamaican House Warming entitled "Out of Many One." Wray Anderson is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at

Bloomfield, and his wife, June is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Bruce. "We wanted to offer teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community at large an opportunity to share in the culture of our Jamaican exchange teachers," says Shanta Johnson, Bloomfield Media Specialist.

"We were very pleased with the crowd," says Bloomfield Home School Facilitator Yolanda Cummings, "especially the support from the students."

"It brought together two schools' staff, students, and parents," says Bloomfield Principal David Dillard. "It also garnered the community to learn, to celebrate, and to demonstrate love and support to a family who is so different from us, yet so alike us."

Jamaican food was served, and students made placemats and posters with several themes: education, geography, history, signs and symbols, Montego Bay (where the Andersons are from), and Jamaican products. June Anderson gave a history of her authentic outfit, traditional Jamaican games were played, and Wray Anderson entertained the crowd

with drumming and dancing.

"This event provided students with a diverse offering of culture, history of Jamaica, food, games, and songs played in the Jamaica," says Johnson. "Everyone had an opportunity to talk with the Andersons, bring food and gifts, and celebrate the theme of 'Out of Many One.'"

"We serve as ambassadors as we share, support them and teach them the American way. Our students will be better by this exchange, their lives will be continuously enriched by this experience," says Dillard.

"As you settle into our historic city, know that we value your unique cultural backgrounds and experience," Patterson told them. "As part of our global vision, we are excited to be participating in this teacher exchange program. We enthusiastically welcome our new teachers to Macon and thank our host families for their assistance in providing that historic brand of southern hospitality that makes Macon such a delightful place to work and play."



Jamaican food was served at Bloomfield and Barden's celebration to welcome their new faculty.

### Bibb County Schools After School Program



Sept 19

Family Luau/PASS Module 1  
Brookdale Elementary  
4:30 p.m.

Sept 20

Mind, Body, & Soul Stress Therapy  
Jones Elementary School  
5:30 p.m.

Sept 26

Character Education  
BINGO/ PASS Module 1  
King-Danforth Elementary  
4:30 p.m.

Sept 27

Character Education  
BINGO/ PASS Module 4  
Morgan Elementary  
4:30 p.m.,

Sept 28

Transitioning Your Child from Elementary to Middle School Parent Workshop  
Rutland Middle  
5:30 p.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

2006-2007

### Teachers of the Year

#### Elementary Schools

- Alexander II**
- Cherie Boston - 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Barden**
- Tony Howard - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Brookdale**
- Latanya Dean - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Burdell-Hunt**
- Sheila Hughes - Kindergarten
- Burke**
- Rachael L. Veal - Kindergarten
- Carter**
- Lynn Waldron - K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Danforth**
- Paula Adams - Instructional Lead Teacher
- Hamilton**
- Shelley Simmons - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Hartley**
- Bennie Moore - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Heard**
- Carole H Cote - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Heritage**
- Claudia Becker - Pre-Kindergarten
- Ingram-Pye**
- Peggy Mullins - Kindergarten
- Jones**
- Mary Beth Layfield - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Lane**
- Kathy Rogers-Martin - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Morgan**
- Sarah Mayberry - Media Specialist
- Porter**

- Cathy Ely - 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Rice**
- Kathy Bennett - 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Riley**
- Allison Walker - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Skyview
- Terri Powell - Kindergarten
- Springdale**
- Amber 'AJ' Johnson - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Taylor**
- Susan McCaskill - 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Union**
- Brandi Edwards - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades
- Vineville**
- Elizabeth Jones - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Williams**
- Gloria Houston - Kindergarten

- Daphney D Howell - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts
- Weaver**
- Elaine Bailey - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra

#### High Schools

- Central**
- Wylene Dickey - Business/Vocational Ed
- Northeast**
- Donna W. Thompson - Physical Science/AP Biology
- Rutland**
- Brian J Rubin - 9<sup>th</sup> grade Government/World Geography, 10<sup>th</sup> grade World History, 12<sup>th</sup> grade Economy
- Westside**
- Cynthia Cooper - English

#### Butler Early Childcare Center

- Michelle R. Hobbs - Pre-Kindergarten
- Elam Alexander Academy**
- Patricia Graham - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>
- Renaissance Academy**
- Lawrence Robinson - History/Government/Geography

#### Fine Arts Program

- Elise Davenport - Elementary Music Teacher

We want your feedback! Please e-mail your comments and suggestions for "The Learning Curve" or information about events in the Bibb County school system to: [cfloore@bibb.k12.ga.us](mailto:cfloore@bibb.k12.ga.us) or call 765-8548



# Women of Distinction 2006



Girl Scouts of Middle Georgia, Inc. wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of our first Women of Distinction event:

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